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STOCK MARKET
 DSE price index 774.42 (+0.59%)
 Market capital Tk 47.96 billion
 Transactions in volume 119383
 Transactions in value Tk 17.51 million

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Massive NATO attacks on Serb positions



File picture dated May 31 this year of the catapult launch of a jet fighter F/A 18 on the deck of the US aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt during manoeuvres in the Adriatic Sea. Sixty NATO combat aircraft took part in a first wave of attacks on Bosnian Serb targets yesterday.

SARAJEVO, Aug 30: More than 60 NATO aircraft backed by artillery of the UN Rapid Reaction Force made massive attacks on Bosnian Serb position all round Sarajevo early today in retaliation for Monday's mortar attack on the city that killed 37 people, UN and NATO sources said, report AFP, AP.

In the biggest NATO action yet since the organisation's founding in 1949, three waves of warplanes struck between 2 am and 9 am (0000 and 0700 GMT).

UN sources said NATO jets also targeted Bosnian Serb air defences near the towns of Mostar in the west, Gorazde in the east, and Tuzla to north, but there was no immediate NATO confirmation.

The United Nations said there were no NATO or UN deaths.

But the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA claimed NATO air raids killed 12 people in Serb-held areas of Sarajevo, including five European Union observers.

The agency, quoting non-official sources, added that an unspecified number of dead and wounded were taken to the Korean hospital in Pale.

The first explosions were heard from the direction of Sarajevo, UN sources said.

See Page 12 Col 4

AL, JP, Jamaat separately discuss next programmes

By Staff Correspondent

The designated leaders of three major opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — yesterday met separately to discuss their next agitation programmes aimed at forcing the ruling BNP to concede to their demand for a caretaker government. Opposition sources said.

The parties are scheduled to announce their new programmes from their respective offices.

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Robin Raphael due Sept 4

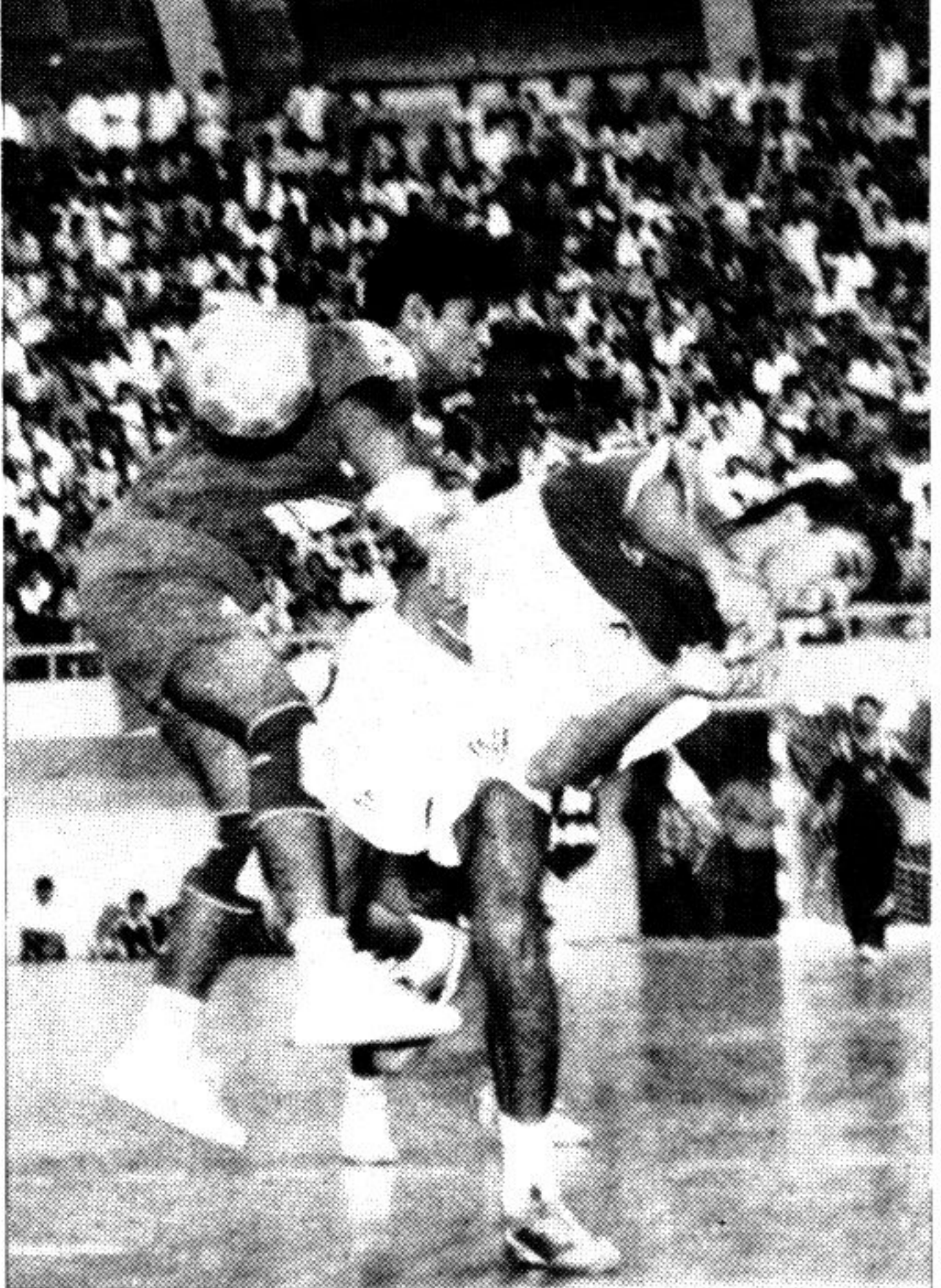
American Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphael will arrive in Dhaka September 4 on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, official sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

Raphael, in-charge of the South Asian Affairs, is scheduled to fly in here from Islamabad on Monday evening. She last visited Bangladesh in 1993.

The US official will meet Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and some other political leaders on Tuesday. She is expected to meet former presidential adviser on foreign affairs.

See Page 12 Col 4

H'ball's last battles lost



Boys of Bangladesh and India's handball teams engage in an on-court tussle during the final of the 6th Commonwealth youth tournament at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday. The dazzling Indians outgunned the local team 33-16.



Sports Reporter

The Indian boys and girls proved their supremacy with efficiency when they literally walked over their Bangladesh counterparts to clinch both the titles of the 6th Commonwealth Youth Handball Championship in the finals played at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The Indian boys team bulldozed through the crumbling Bangladesh defence to emerge the runaway winners with the scoreline of 33-16.

In the first final of the day the local girls failed to stand up to the aggressiveness of the Indians and were swept away 15-26.

The host teams, however, can be consoled in the fact that these are the first runners-up trophies for Bangladesh in any Commonwealth sporting event.

The Bangladesh boys appeared to have lost the drive which enabled them to out-gun four-time Champions Nigeria and holders England in earlier matches.

See Page 12 Col 3

Beijing NGO Forum meet opens 'A milestone in continuing struggle for women's lib'

By Shaheen Anam from Beijing

Some 25,000 delegates to the biggest-ever world conference on women held their breath as Irene Santiago, Executive Director of the Beijing NGO Forum, declared the 10-day event formally opened at the Beijing Olympic Stadium yesterday.

The opening ceremony was a cultural extravaganza which delegates are likely to remember for a long time. The dances, songs and display of artistic talent by the troops of the host country could have matched.

Crowning the extravaganza were the release of 20,000 doves and the arrival of a "peace torch" on a trek from Africa, as thousands cheered and clapped.

in a massive display of solidarity and global sisterhood thousands of women from across the world and representing hundreds of grass-roots organizations came together to chart a path for the next decade with workshops and debates ranging from legal rights to gender discrimination.

The Forum will run partially in parallel with an 11-day UN World Conference on Women from Sept 4.

This is a long-awaited day, a milestone in the continuing struggle for women's liberation, empowerment, dignity and equality, a moment of triumph.

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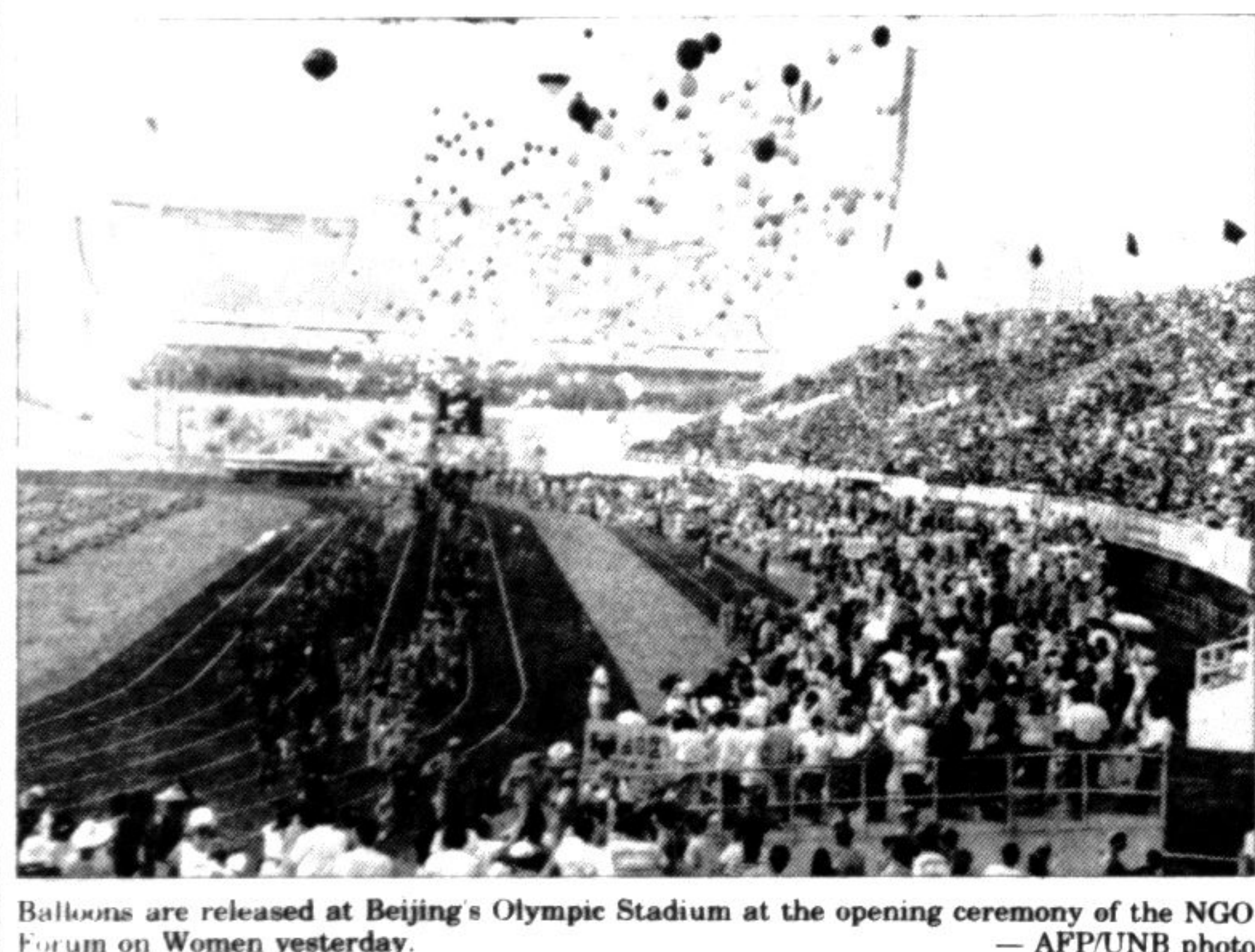
Reception charms Bangladeshis

From Shaheen Anam

Contrary to newspaper reports of chaos and confusion faced by other delegations in the World Conference for Women, the Bangladesh NGO Forum delegation which arrived in Beijing Tuesday sailed past all formalities at the airport in record time.

To their utter surprise the

See Page 12 Col 8



Balloons are released at Beijing's Olympic Stadium at the opening ceremony of the NGO Forum on Women yesterday.

Pvt container depot to start in Ctg soon

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Aug 30: An inland container depot (ICD) set up at Sagarika Road here under private initiative, the first of its kind in the private sector for handling containers of export cargo, is likely to go into operation shortly, officials said.

The ICD built up over five acres of land is seven km from Chittagong Port and Customs house.

The government, as part of a move to privatise some functions of the port, gave permission to a local firm M/s Shafi Motors Ltd — to set up the ICD to ease pressure and congestion of container cargo at Chittagong Port, officials said.

The private ICD — Shafi

Jatiya Party stages demonstration against EC

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party (JP) yesterday staged a demonstration in the city yesterday expressing its no-confidence in the Election Commission (EC) and reiterating its demand for holding general elections under a caretaker government.

The demonstrators also demanded release of their detained leader, deposed president H M Ershad.

The JP activists held a rally near the Islamia Eye Hospital in the afternoon and brought out a procession towards the EC at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar as part of their demonstration.

Addressing the rally, JP Secretary General Anwar

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10 pc wage-hike for workers of govt industries

The government has decided to increase the wages of the workers of the nationalised industrial units by 10 per cent, an official hand-out said yesterday, reports BSS.

Following the decision, workers of all nationalised industrial units under the Wages Commission will get the benefit at the rate of five per cent from January 1, 1995 and the remaining five per cent from July 1, 1995.

All other allowances including house rent would be provided to the workers on the basis of increase in the basic wages and personal wages, as per current practice.

Besides, the government has taken necessary steps to remove the disparity created due to promotion of the workers and juniority and seniority reasons.

See Page 12 Col 8

BNP govt killing people to protect its chair: Hasina

Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP government would not be able to perpetuate its power by resorting to repression and snatching people's rights like the fallen autocrats, reports UNB.

The Khaleda Zia government opened fire on the innocent people and killed them indiscriminately to protect its chair," she said at a protest rally at the Jurain Alam Market in the afternoon.

The Awami League organised the rally in protest against the killing of its workers Abdur Rahman and Badruddin Badu, who died in an armed clash on August 27 in Farmgate area.

The Awami League president said the terrorists of the

See Page 12 Col 7

Underaged garment workers already being sacked

By Staff Correspondent

Some of the garments factory owners have reportedly started terminating underaged workers from their organisations, violating the memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the placement of child workers in school programmes.

According to trade union workers and witnesses, some factories located at Farmgate, Moghbazar and Mirpur areas have sacked child workers from their respective organisations on the pretext of losing business.

However, the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Redwan Ahmed categorically denied the sacking of child labourers from the garments factories.

He questioned, "why should the owners remove the un-

See Page 12 Col 4

HC issues showcause on govt Manzur murder case proceedings stayed

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division yesterday issued a rule calling upon the government to show cause as to why the proceedings taken by the Dhaka Session Judge in the Manzur murder case on August 16 last should not be set aside.

The HC also ordered stay of the said proceedings till disposal of the rule.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam upon hearing both the parties in a criminal revisional petition filed by the former President HM Ershad challenging the proceedings taken by the Dhaka Session Judge on August 16 also fixed November 6, for hearing the rule.

"But the parties will be at liberty to make a prayer before the Vacation Bench for its early hearing," the order says.

"Since the order taking cognizance of the offence against the accused is a part of the proceedings taken on August 16 due to stay of that proceedings all further proceedings of case will automatically remain stayed," explained Khondoker Mahub Hossain, the chief counsel for Ershad.

As per the criminal trial procedure without taking cognizance of offence against the accused no criminal trial can be proceeded on, he said.

On August 16 the Sessions

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Barring loan defaulters from polls BNP yet to decide party stand

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling BNP has not yet decided the party stand on whether bank loan defaulters should be allowed to contest the next general election.

"Our party has not given any thought on the matter," BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked about his party's reaction to the Election Commission's draft code of conduct for political parties for the next polls, he said, "We contradicted some of the points in the draft but did not add anything to it."

The EC recently sent the draft code of conduct to all political parties and sought their suggestions.

There was no mention about loan defaulters in the draft code of conduct.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has prepared a proposal barring loan defaulters from contesting the next general polls. The proposal is expected to be sent to the government shortly, commission sources said yesterday.

Pressed further, he said "We don't think there is any loan defaulter in our party."

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia while talking to overseas correspondents recently said

See Page 12 Col 1

JCD factions clash in N'ganj : 50 hurt

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 30: At least 50 persons were injured in a series of gunfights here today and yesterday.

The clashes between rival groups of youths took place at the Bank Colony and in Deobhagh areas of the town. They also attacked shops and houses. In the clashes, several hundred gunshots were exchanged and crackers exploded.

According to witnesses and police, the supporters of Zakir and Pavel, both of them leaders of pro-BNP Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal, were locked in a gunfight at Deobhagh late last night. They continued their gunfight until 10 to night, leaving more than 30 persons wounded. Police rushed to the spot early today and made baton charges to disperse them. But police failed to stop the fighting which later spread to Nagbari, Panirtanki and other areas.

The rivals of the JCD groups also attacked 15 houses and disconnected telephone lines of some of the houses. Earlier, two other groups of youths clashed at the Bank Colony area in which 20 persons were injured. They were admitted to the Narayanganj Hospital and other clinics. Five shops and several houses were also attacked.

ADB to provide \$130m for power project

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide over 130 million US dollars to Bangladesh for the implementation of 9th Power Transmission and Distribution Project, Meghna Ghat Generation and Transmission Project and 4th Natural Gas Study Project, reports BSS.

The assurance came when Energy and Mineral Resources Minister, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, now on an official visit to the Philippines, called on the ADB President M Sato in Manila yesterday.

Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary, who is accompanying the minister, was present during the meeting, an official handout said here.

The ADB will provide over 80 million US dollars to implement the 9th Power

See Page 12 Col 7

Indo-Bangla trade review talks now in September

By Staff Correspondent

The ministerial-level trade review talks between Bangladesh and India is likely to be held towards the end of September, a source in the Ministry of Commerce said her yesterday.

The talks were earlier scheduled to be held on Tuesday last. The talks have been deferred for the commerce ministers' preoccupations of home and official visit abroad, the source said.

The review talks will focus on the bulging trade gap between Bangladesh and India which totals over Tk 5500 crores in 10 years till 1994.

Issues relating to the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) will also be discussed, the source added. "Bangladesh will discuss with India its earlier proposal for reduction of duty on 106 exportable items from Bangladesh.

Bangladesh-India trade review talks were last held in Delhi in 1992.

S Korea to recruit 3500 Bangladeshi workers

Korean Federation of Small Business (KFSB) will recruit 3,500 trainee-workers from Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Silver Line Associate recruiting agency has been given permission by the Labour and Manpower Ministry to send 700 such workers to South Korea, said a PID handout yesterday.

Earlier, Bay Eastern Limited and Rupsa Overseas Limited have obtained necessary permission to send 2,800 trainee workers to South Korea.

Child-lifting: One more beaten up

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 30: Another person suspected to be a child-lifter was beaten up by a mob at Nasirabad road in the city today. Police rescued him. He was identified as a worker of the Amin Jute Mills.

2 held for looting jewellery shop

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 30: Police arrested two persons today for allegedly looting a jewellery shop at Didar Market here yesterday. Police said, they were being interrogated. Meanwhile, three constables who were taken hostage by the dacoits during the robbery have been suspended for negligence of duty.